

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 04429 160737Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AF-10 /083 W
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R 151034Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3842
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN UNN
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RO
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF NEW ROMANIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH

REF: BUCHAREST A-48 OF MAY 26, 1977; BUCHAREST 2240

1. ROMANIAN PRESS JUNE 15 PUBLISHES MESSAGE FROM SYNOD OF ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU WHICH ANNOUNCES ELECTION AT ITS JUNE 12 MEETING OF FORMER METROPOLITAN OF MOLDOVIA AND SUCEAVA JUSTIN MOISESCU AS NEW PATRIARCH OF THE CHURCH.

2. BORN IN 1910, MOISESCU TAUGHT FOR A DECADE AT THE ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IN BUCHAREST BEFORE BECOMING A PRIEST IN 1956, AFTER WHICH HE WAS

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PAGE 02 BUCHAR 04429 160737Z

IMMEDIATELY RAISED TO THE RANK OF BISHOP. HE BECAME METROPOLETON OF MOLDOVIA AND IASI, BY TRADITION THE RANKING CHURCH FIGURE AFTER THE PATRIARCH, IN JANUARY 1957. HE IS A GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY AND THE CHURCH'S SPOKEMAN ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HE LEAD THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION TO THE 1975 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NAIROBI. HE HAS
ALSO VISITED THE UNITED STATES, MOST RECENTLY IN
JUNE 1970.

KPM HIS ELECTION AS PATRIARCH WILL CAUSE SOME UN-EASINESS IN MANY CURCH CIRCLES WHERE HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE HIS OWN INTERESTS, OR THOSE OF THE RCP, OREMOST IN MIND, HXATHEC THAN THOSE OF THE CHURCH. MOISESCU IS DISLIKED IN MANY QUARTERS FOR HIS ROLE IN REORGANIZING THE MONASTERIES IN THE LATE 1950'S, IN EFFECT TURNING THEM INTO MORE PRODUCTION-ORIENTED INSTITUTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS QUICK, INTELLIGENT AND AN IMPOSING FIGURE IN HIS CLERICAL ROBES.

BARNES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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